of introduction of new "Push Pull Train" between Shoranur and Nilamber as announced in the Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). It has been decided to introduce Diesel Multiple Unit/Push Pull services in Shoranur-Nilambur section as and when such rakes become available from the production units/ workshops.

[Translation]

Increase of capacity of Telephone Exchanges

2995. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of telephone exchanges in the country, if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(b) whether there are technical faults in all the telephone exchanges of Eastern Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to computerise all the telephone exchanges in the country; and

(e) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The telephone exchanges in the country are expanded according to the Annual Plans . These plans are prepared every year according to budget allocations.

(b) No, Sir. Occasional faults when occur are getting cleared immediately.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) All electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Corruption and negligency by Employees

2996. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes many days to set a telephone in order because of corruption and negligence of employees;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) whether responsibility of any officer and employee has been fixed in regard to set a telephone in order and telephone subscribers have to set their telephones in order by spending money themselves?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Whenever complaints of corruption and negligence are received from subscribers prompt action is taken to fix responsibility and to punish delinquent officials. There are designated officers who are responsible for setting telephones in order.

[English]

EST Act

2997. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for issuing a statutory notification exempting all the Khadi production units functioning under the Khadi and Village Industries Board and other institutions from the operation of ESI Act and issue order for the total withdrawal of the Revenue Recovery Proceedings and dropping of prosecution steps restored to by the State ESI Corporation in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In July, 1996 a memorandum was received from the Government of Kerala for issuing statutory Notification for grant of exemption from the ESI Act to all Khadi Prodı tion Units functioning under the KVI Board. The matter regarding coverage of the KVIC units under the ESI Act has already been examined. The view taken is that workers engaged in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission units are usually among the poorest sections of society and as such need protection of the ESI Act. It is therefore not considered desirable to exempt the Khadi and Village Industries Units from the operation of the ESI Act.

Re-naming of the Airports

2988. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some requests from various State Governments for re-naming some of the airports in their respective States are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that any assurance has been given recently for re-naming the Ahmedabad airport after the name of Sardar Patel; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be declared and if not the reasons for delay in declaring the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No such requests are pending with the Government at present.

(c) and (d). Ahmedabad Airport has already been renamed as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on 7.12.96.

Extra Seats for Winter Season

2999. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose of offer 14 percent extra seats to passengers for the forthcoming winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof with areas of such seats;

(c) whether the Government propose to ask the Indian Airlines to offer similar extra seats to passengers in each summer season also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of route-wise increase is enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d). Details of services to be operated in summer schedule of Indian Airlines will be determined with reference to the traffic demand, availability of aircraft and operating crew.

STATEMENT

Highlights of Winter Schedule 1996-97 (Effective 28th October, 1996)

New Links	Frequency/Weekly
1	2
Domestic	
Mumbai/Patna/Ranchi/Calcutta & RT	3 A320
Mumbai/Ahmedabad/Jaipur/calcutta and return	3 A320
Madras/Tirputi/Hyderabad & RT	2 B737
International	
Trichy/Sharjah	2 A320 (effective 3rd December 1996)
Increase In Capacity (Domestic)	
Mumbai/Delhi	28 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 28 A300
Mumbai/Bangalore	11 A300 + 10 A320 instead of 9 A300 + 12 A320
Mumbai/Goa	7 A300 + 3 A320 instead of 7 A300
Mumbai/Madras	10 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 7 A300 + 10 A320
Mumbai/Coimbatore	3 A320 Terminator - 3 A320 (Bom : CJB: BOM) instead of 4 A320 (BOM: CJB : IXM : BOM),
Mubai/Varanasi/Lucknow/Mumbai	4 A320 instead of 3 A320
Calcutta/Bangalore	10 A320 instead of 7 A320
Calcutta/Madras	12 A320 + 2 B737 instead of 7 A320
Calcutta/Jorhat/Dimapur/Calcutta	4 B737 instead of 2 B737
Calcutta/Imphal/Guwahati/Calcutta	2 A320
Delhi/Bangalore	7 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 14 A320
Delhi/Hyderabad	7 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 14 A320
Delhi/Varanasi	7 A320 instead of 3 A320 terminator + 4 A320 (DEL:VNS:BBI:DEL)